

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A system for sharing data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain, the system comprising:

a storage component configured to store a plurality of data objects, each data object including a plurality of predefined data groups; and

a processing component in communication with the storage component, the processing component being configured to:

receive, from a user affiliated with a first business entity in the plurality of business entities, a request to access a data object in the plurality of data objects, wherein the data object is owned by a second business entity in the plurality of business entities;

extract from the request a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user;

retrieve a set of privileges associated with the data object and the user identifier, the set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determine, based on the read privileges, one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view;

generate a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmit the redacted version of the data object to the user,

wherein the set of privileges are defined by the second business entity based on one or more business agreements between the second business entity and one or more third

business entities in the plurality of business entities for handling confidential information in the product supply chain.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

23. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

24. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

25. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

26. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.

27. (New) A method for sharing data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain, the method comprising:

receiving, from a user affiliated with a first business entity in the plurality of business entities, a request to access a data object in a plurality of data objects, wherein the data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the data object is owned by a second business entity in the plurality of business entities;

extracting from the request a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user;
retrieving a set of privileges associated with the data object and the user identifier,
the set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of
the data object that the user is allowed to view;
determining, based on the read privileges, one or more predefined data groups of
the data object that the user is not allowed to view;
generating a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of
the data object does not include the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the
user is not allowed to view; and
transmitting the redacted version of the data object to the user,
wherein the set of privileges are defined by the second business entity based on
one or more business agreements between the second business entity and one or more third
business entities in the plurality of business entities for handling confidential information in the
product supply chain.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.

34. (New) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a series of instructions which, when executed by a processing component, cause the processing component to facilitate the sharing of data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain by:

receiving, from a user affiliated with a first business entity in the plurality of business entities, a request to access a data object in a plurality of data objects, wherein the data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the data object is owned by a second business entity in the plurality of business entities;

extracting from the request a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user;
retrieving a set of privileges associated with the data object and the user identifier, the set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determining, based on the read privileges, one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view;

generating a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmitting the redacted version of the data object to the user,
wherein the set of privileges are defined by the second business entity based on one or more business agreements between the second business entity and one or more third business entities in the plurality of business entities for handling confidential information in the product supply chain.

35. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

36. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

37. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

38. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

39. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

40. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.